

HIGHLIGHTS OF WORLD WAR I

1914

- June 28 Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated.
- July 28 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.
- July 30 Russia ordered general mobilization.
- Aug. 1 Germany declared war on Russia.
- Aug. 3 Germany declared war on France.
- Aug. 4 Germany invaded Belgium. Great Britain declared war on Germany.
- Aug. 26-31 The Germans crushed the Russian Second Army at Tannenberg.
- Sept. 1-Oct. 3 The Russians defeated the Austrians in the Battles of Lemberg.
- Sept. 6-9 The Allies stopped the Germans in the First Battle of the Marne.
- Oct. 21-Nov. 17 Germany failed to reach the English Channel in the First Battle of Ypres.
- Oct. 29 The Turks joined the Central Powers.

1915

- Feb. 18 Germany started to blockade Great Britain.
- Apr. 22 The Germans first used poison gas, in the Second Battle of Ypres.
- Apr. 25 Allied troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula.
- May 2 The Austrians began an offensive in Galicia.
- May 7 A German submarine sank the liner *Lusitania*.
- May 23 Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary.

1916

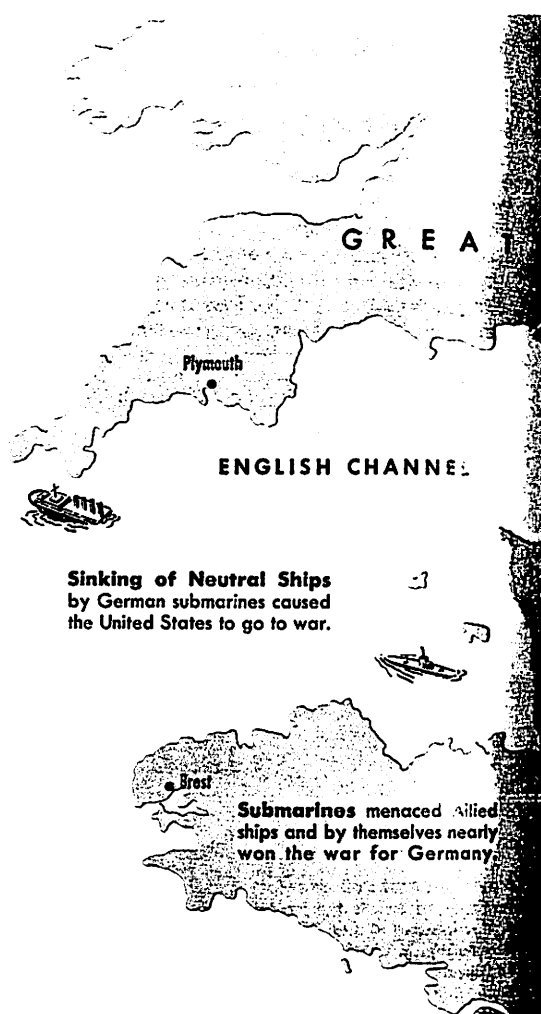
- Feb. 21 The Germans opened the Battle of Verdun.
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- July 31-Nov. 10 Germany stopped the Allies in the Third Battle of Ypres.
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- Dec. 9 Jerusalem fell to the Allies.
- Dec. 15 Russia signed an armistice with Germany.

1918

- Jan. 8 President Woodrow Wilson announced his Fourteen Points as the basis for peace.
- Mar. 3 Russia signed the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk.
- Mar. 21 Germany launched the first of its final offensives along the Somme.
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- June 15 Austria-Hungary fought its last offensive.
- June 23 The Allies occupied Murmansk, Russia.
- June 25 American marines captured Belleau Wood.
- July 15 Germany launched its last offensive on the Marne.
- July 18 France began the Second Battle of the Marne.
- July 21 Allied troops recaptured Château-Thierry.
- Aug. 8 The British broke the German line at Amiens.
- Sept. 26 The Allies began their final offensive on the western front.
- Sept. 29 Bulgaria signed an armistice.
- Oct. 30 The Ottoman Empire signed an armistice.
- Nov. 3 Austria signed an armistice.
- Nov. 9 Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany abdicated.
- Nov. 11 Germany signed the armistice.



Austria-Hungary controlled lands that several of its neighbors thought should belong to them. Serbia, a Slavic nation, wanted the provinces of Bosnia and Hercegovina, because it wanted an outlet to the sea and because so many Slavs lived there. Italy wanted to take the Trentino region and Trieste away from Austria-Hungary, because many Italians lived in these places. The Czechs and the Slovaks also sought to free themselves from Austrian and Hungarian control.

People of many different nationalities lived in Russia, including Estonians, Finns, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Poles. They, too, wanted freedom. In the Balkan Peninsula—often called the *powder keg of Europe* because of many small wars—Bulgarians, Greeks, Romanians, Serbs, and other peoples resented long years of Turkish misrule, and interference by other countries.

The leaders of the Congress of Vienna might have taken care of the national desires of many people in central and eastern Europe if they had wanted to do so. But they decided otherwise.

Some countries had *war cults* (organizations that glorified war). Members of these groups sometimes insulted neighboring peoples, who were quick to take offense. Warmongers sneered at foreign ways of doing things. Often, sensational newspaper stories helped spread their propaganda. Some German leaders vigorously urged commercial and political expansion to the east, especially in Asia. They called this policy of

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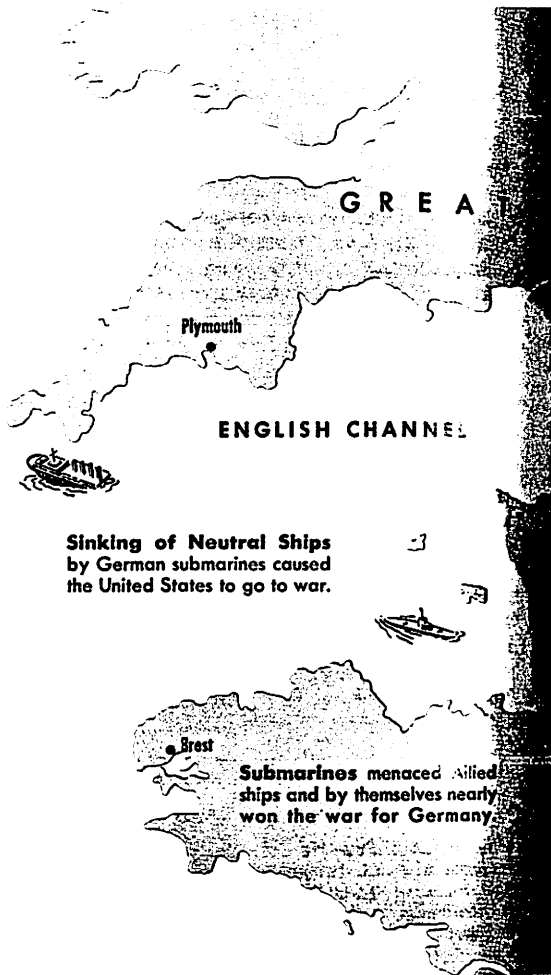
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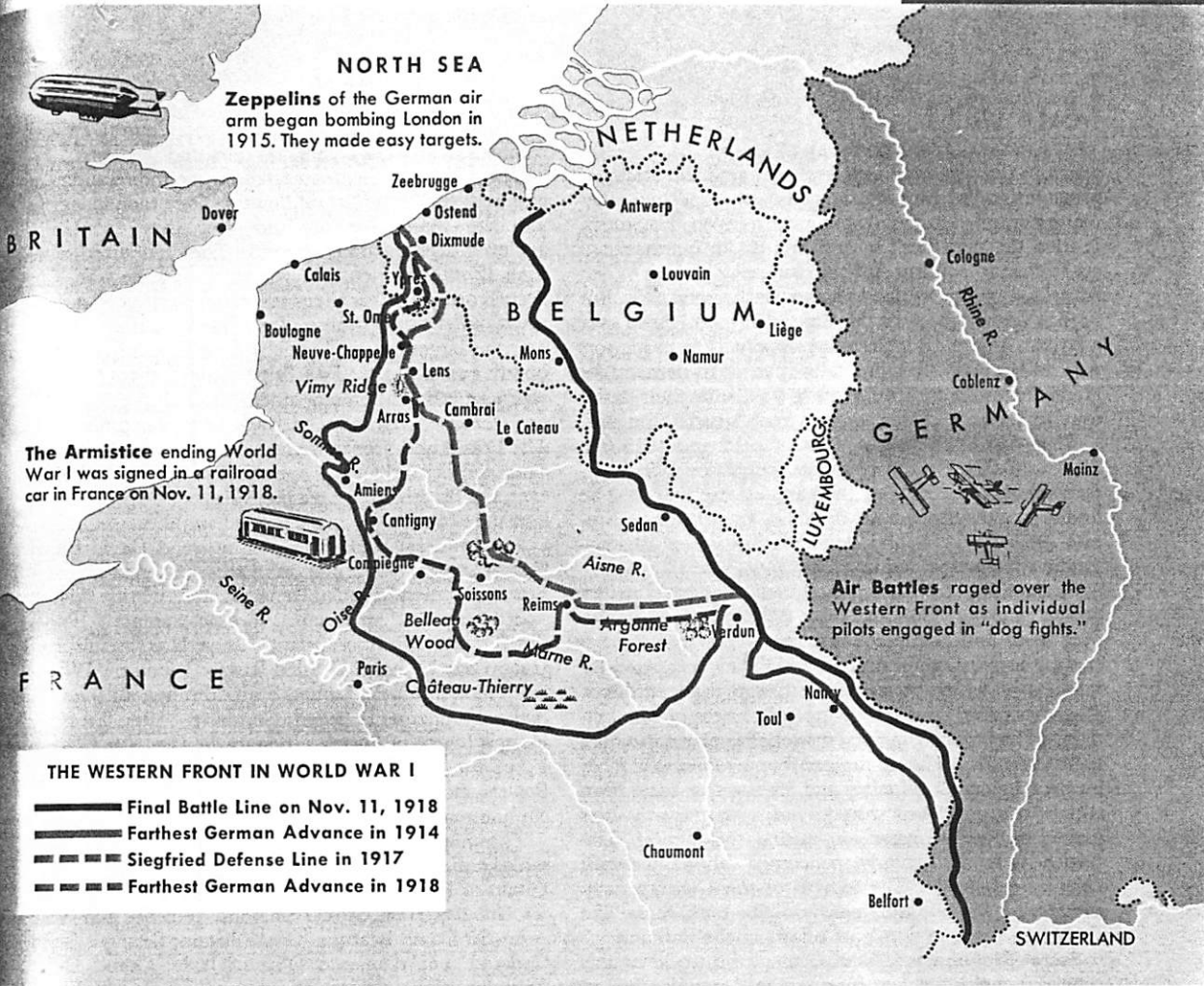


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THE WESTERN FRONT IN WORLD WAR I

- Final Battle Line on Nov. 11, 1918
- - - Farthest German Advance in 1914
- ... Siegfried Defense Line in 1917
- . - Farthest German Advance in 1918

expansion *Drang nach Osten*, or "the drive toward the east."

Military Alliances proved to be another fundamental cause of World War I. After Chancellor Otto von Bismarck unified the German Empire in 1871, he hoped for a period of international peace. Bismarck felt that France's desire to regain Alsace-Lorraine might be the chief threat to peace. He sought allies whose support would discourage other nations from attacking Germany.

The Triple Alliance. In 1882, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy signed a treaty called the *Triple Alliance* (see **TRIPLE ALLIANCE**). It was designed to protect its members against attack by France or Russia. Germany and Italy feared France, and Germany and Austria-Hungary feared Russia.

The three members of the Alliance formed a powerful bloc in central Europe. But Austria-Hungary and Italy were not really friendly. They quarreled over territory that Italy thought it should have. Both competed for control of the Adriatic Sea. When war broke out in 1914, Italy did not stand by its alliance obligation. It had made a secret treaty with France in 1902. As a result, it remained neutral for a time, then declared war on Austria-Hungary.

The Entente Cordiale. After the formation of the Triple Alliance, the other great countries of Europe found themselves at a disadvantage. In case of an international crisis, Great Britain, France, and Russia would have to act separately, but the countries of the Triple Alliance

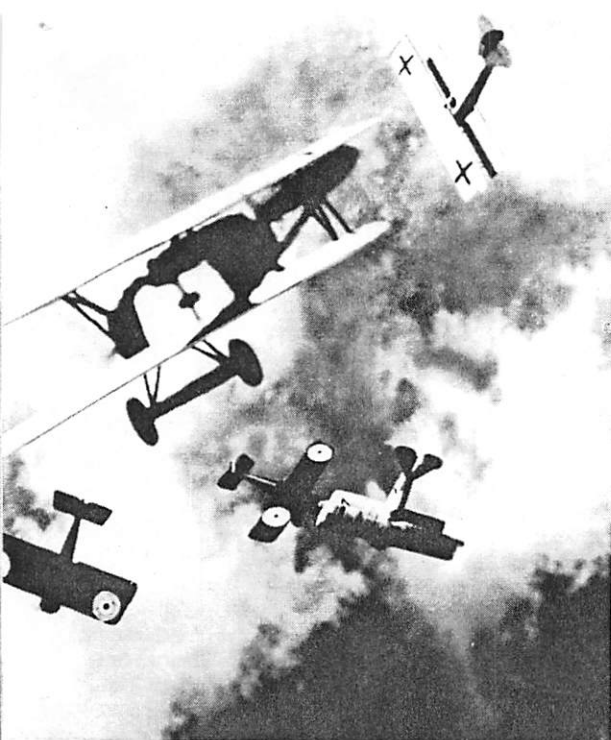
could act together. In 1894, France signed a defensive alliance with Russia.

Only Great Britain then remained isolated. It faced growing commercial and naval rivalry with Germany. In 1904, Great Britain and France reached an *Entente Cordiale*, or *cordial understanding*. By the terms of this agreement, they settled their many disagreements about colonies. The two nations became diplomatic partners.

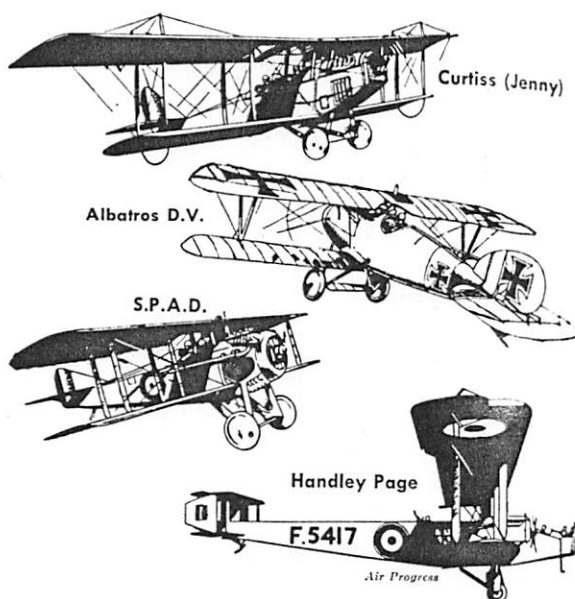
The Triple Entente. Next, France succeeded in bringing Great Britain and Russia together. In 1907, these two nations signed the *Anglo-Russian Entente*, somewhat like the *Entente Cordiale*. The new agreement linking France, Russia, and Great Britain was called the *Triple Entente* (see **TRIPLE ENTENTE**).

International Disputes. Now Europe was divided into two armed camps, the Triple Alliance opposed to the Triple Entente. Each group attracted a number of smaller allies. Any quarrel between two European countries could quickly involve all six great powers.

One important dispute concerned Morocco, "the Pearl of North Africa." Between 1905 and 1912, France came close to war with Germany several times over control of this large and valuable region. Another trouble spot lay in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Austria-Hungary had occupied these former Turkish provinces in 1878, and formally annexed them in 1908. Russia promised in advance that it would not oppose the annexation. In return, Austria-Hungary agreed to favor giving Russian



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Airplanes clashed over the battle lines and tried to sweep the enemy from the skies. Individual pilots fought in dogfights. Later battles took place between circuses, or groups of aircraft. Pilots who shot down five or more aircraft were called "war aces."

generals served there. In 1917, the Allies carried out the only offensives along the front, including fierce attacks by the British at Passchendaele and Cambrai. But the year ended without important changes in territory.

Revolution in Russia. The Allies faced disaster on the eastern front. The Russians overthrew their government and forced Czar Nicholas II to abdicate in March (February in the Russian calendar then in use). Russia's new government said it would carry on the war. Brusilov's armies advanced in the Carpathian Mountains. But the Germans counterattacked and moved toward Russia's capital, Petrograd (now Leningrad).

Early in November (October in the old Russian calendar), the Bolsheviks under Lenin and Leon Trotsky overthrew the government of Alexander Kerensky and arranged for an armistice with the Central Powers. On Dec. 8, 1917, the new Russian government ended hostilities and began peace talks with Germany.

Propaganda Warfare reached a new high in 1917. Both sides tried to gain additional allies, or to keep other countries neutral. They sought to keep up the spirits of their own people, and to destroy the morale of the enemy. They spread stories of enemy atrocities, such as tales of soldiers cutting off children's hands. Allied propagandists called the Germans "Huns." German propaganda agents claimed that an Allied victory would bring "the end of the German people."

The Submarine Menace also reached its peak in 1917. In January, Germany announced that its submarines would sink any vessel bound into or out of any Allied port. It extended the war zone to cover the high seas. Germany hoped that unrestricted submarine warfare would win a quick victory before the United States could intervene effectively on the side of the Allies.

Both sides had frequently violated the rights of neutral ships. The British regularly seized neutral shipping on the high seas, claiming that it might fall into enemy hands. Germany sank merchant vessels without warn-

ing. The Germans claimed their submarines were fragile and easy targets for ships' guns when on the surface. They said they could not risk stopping ships to check their papers. The Allies used depth bombs, listening instruments, mines, steel nets, and, later, convoys to destroy or escape submarines. In March, Germany torpedoed several American merchant ships without warning. The next month, German submarines sank 900,000 long tons (910,000 metric tons) of Allied shipping, the all-time high for the war.

The United States Enters the War. Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare directly caused the United States to join the Allies. Only three years before, few Americans had thought that they would become involved in the war. The news of the outbreak of the war in 1914 had astonished most Americans. President Woodrow Wilson had declared that the United States would be "neutral in fact as well as in name."

Even after a German submarine torpedoed the *Lusitania* in 1915, killing 128 Americans, Wilson thought the United States would not enter the war. But as a measure of preparation, the government set up military-training camps for men who were willing to spend their vacations learning how to become soldiers.

In June, 1916, Congress increased the size of the army. Three months later, it voted more than \$7 billion for national defense, the largest sum appropriated up to that time. Wilson authorized U.S. merchant vessels to carry guns as protection against submarines.

The British intercepted a German message to Mexico in January, 1917, that helped persuade the United States to enter the war. The message, known as the *Zimmerman note*, indicated that Germany had approached Mexico for an alliance in case of war with the United States. As payment, Germany promised to help Mexico recover some land it had ceded to the United States after the Mexican War.

A record number of sinkings of U.S. merchant ships

settled American doubts. On April 2, Wilson read a war message to Congress. "The world must be made safe for democracy," he said. On April 6, the United States declared war on Germany. It associated itself with the Allies, but did not sign a treaty of alliance with them.

Life in America changed from leisure to a feverish pace to win the war. But the country was almost totally unprepared. The government adopted a selective-service act that required all men between 21 and 30 to register for the draft. Its committee on public information sought to make the Allied cause known in almost every city, town, and village. "Four-minute" men promoted the sale of Liberty bonds and support for the draft. Billboards shouted slogans such as "Food Will Win the War." A stern-looking Uncle Sam appeared on army recruiting posters to announce "I Want You." Soldiers and civilians alike sang "Over There" to let the world know that the Yanks were coming.

Mobilizing for War. Six major wartime agencies mobilized the country's economic and industrial system for war. A War Industries Board under Bernard Baruch controlled war production. The Shipping Board tried to get ships built faster than the Germans could sink them. A Food Administration urged people in the country to save food. It promoted "meatless" days. A Rail Administration operated the railroads. A Fuel Administration directed the civilian uses of gasoline. The War Trade Board controlled exports and imports.

Feelings against Germany grew stronger as the war progressed. Schools stopped offering courses in German

language and literature. Anyone who criticized the war effort was suspected of working for the enemy. The Department of Justice received wide powers to investigate espionage and sedition cases.

Espionage. On July 30, 1916, German saboteurs set off an explosion at the Black Tom Island ammunition shipping station, near Jersey City, N.J. The year before, Heinrich Friedrich Albert, an agent of the German government, had carelessly left a briefcase in a New York elevated railway car. From secret documents in the briefcase, the United States traced propaganda and sabotage plans to the German and Austrian embassies.

"*Lafayette, We Are Here!*" American Expeditionary Forces under Gen. John J. Pershing began landing in France on June 26, 1917. Remembering that the French had aided the colonists in the Revolutionary War, Col. Charles E. Stanton, one of Pershing's staff officers, announced on July 4: "Lafayette, we are here!" During the war, the government inducted more than 2,800,000 men into military service. The American armed forces totaled 4,800,000 men. About 2 million American soldiers served in France. The first units entered the trenches in October. Pershing opposed the use of American soldiers as individual replacements. He insisted that they fight as units. These units formed the American First Army.

The American Expeditionary Forces took part in 13 major operations of World War I. The Saint Mihiel

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NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22, 1918.

Submarines attacked Allied ships, sometimes stopping them first. The Germans declared a war zone around Great Britain, and warned Americans of the danger. In 1917, they began unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking Allied ships anywhere. The United States then declared war on Germany.

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November 3, representatives of Emperor Charles I agreed to an armistice. Germany stood alone.

The Armistice. Sailors in the German High Sea Fleet at Kiel mutinied in late October. As the news spread, revolts broke out in other parts of Germany. Small mutinies flared among German troops as food and munitions supplies dwindled. Hindenburg told Kaiser Wilhelm II that, to avoid a catastrophe, Germany must seek an immediate armistice with the Allies. The Kaiser appointed Prince Max of Baden as Chancellor with the task of seeking an armistice. Prince Max appealed to President Wilson for armistice terms. On November 7, the world received a premature news story that the Germans had signed an armistice. This has been called "the false armistice."

A German armistice delegation went to Foch's headquarters near Rethondes in the Forest of Compiègne on November 7. Foch outlined the armistice terms: the Germans were to (1) evacuate all occupied territory, (2) surrender their arms and warships, (3) withdraw all forces from west of the Rhine, (4) return Allied prisoners, and (5) permit Allied troops to occupy German territory. Foch gave the Germans 72 hours to accept the terms. In Berlin, German socialists under Friedrich Ebert proclaimed a German Republic on November 9. Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated and fled to neutral Netherlands.

In a drizzling rain, the German delegates entered a railway car in the Compiègne Forest, and at 5 A.M. November 11, signed the armistice. Foch signed for the Allies and Secretary of State Matthias Erzberger signed for Germany. Foch ordered fighting to stop on all battlefronts at 11 A.M. World War I had ended.

At the time of the armistice, Allied troops stood about 120 miles (193 kilometers) from the Rhine River in northern Germany. The Allies established a neutral zone 6 miles (10 kilometers) wide along the river's east bank. British and Belgian troops occupied a bridgehead at Cologne. American forces had headquarters at the Koblenz bridgehead. French occupation forces held the bridgehead in the Mainz area. From these three points, the Allies commanded the Rhine valley. In 1923, the last American troops in Germany withdrew. The last Allied soldiers, French and Belgian, left in 1930.

Results of the War

The peace settlements after World War I healed many old wounds. But they inflicted new ones. The Allies had emphasized the principle of *self-determination* (the right of each nation to choose its own form of government). This caused the flame of nationalism to burn even more brightly than it had before 1914. The Allies formed the League of Nations and a World Court as agencies to settle disputes peacefully. But member nations did not always support these agencies in international disputes. The United States did not join the League of Nations (see LEAGUE OF NATIONS).

War Losses. World War I took the lives of twice as many men as all major wars from 1790 to 1913 put together. About 63 of every 100 servicemen who died came from the Allied armed forces. The number of civilian deaths in areas of actual war totaled about 5,000,000. Starvation, disease, and exposure accounted for about 80 of every 100 of these civilian deaths. Spanish influenza, which some persons blamed on the war, caused tens of millions of other deaths.

World War I cost more than \$337 billion. Of this amount, about \$186 billion paid the direct cost of carrying on the war. The Allies spent about two-thirds of the money used to buy guns, food, ammunitions, and other war materials. During the first three years of war, the fighting nations spent more than \$85,000 every minute, and twice that amount in 1918. None of these figures includes the additional economic loss involved in servicemen crippled, the billions of dollars needed to pay interest on war debts, or the pensions paid to veterans and their families.

About \$8 of every \$10 spent for the war came from borrowed funds. The warring countries sold bonds to individuals and firms. For example, the United States borrowed money from its citizens through Liberty Loans. It also raised money by new taxes such as the excess-profits tax and the luxury tax. Tax receipts totaled about \$11,280,000,000 in 1917 and 1918. The United States loaned more than \$10 billion to the Allies (see WAR DEBT).

The Home Front in Europe came under intense bombing and shelling in areas of military operations. The war destroyed the industrial and community lives of many cities, towns, and villages in these areas. It closed or destroyed schools, factories, roads, and railroads. In many countries, people had to depend on food supplied by their governments.

In eastern Europe and the Balkans, millions of persons fled their homes in terror of invasion. Refugees moved helplessly from place to place in search of food, shelter, and clothing. They sought shelter in the ruins of blasted buildings and houses. After the war, those who tried to return to their homes often found that their towns or villages no longer existed.

During and immediately after the war, the Allies sent food and supplies to war-shattered countries. The United

— MILITARY CASUALTIES IN WORLD WAR I (1914-1918) —

	Total Casualties	Dead	Wounded	Prisoners or Missing
THE ALLIES				
Belgium (including colonials)	126,154	45,550	78,624	73,976
British Empire (including Canada, Ireland, and colonials)	2,384,860	942,135	2,110,933	197,874
France (including colonials)	4,968,000	1,368,000	3,600,000	557,000
Greece	38,310	23,098	14,145	1,067
Italy	2,197,000	680,000	947,000	600,000
Japan	13,245	1,344	11,901	(X)
Montenegro	*50,000	*3,000	*10,000	*7,000
Portugal	22,929	8,145	14,784	(X)
Romania	*405,545	*300,000	*105,000	*80,000
Russia	*9,150,000	*1,700,000	*4,950,000	*2,500,000
Serbia	*331,106	*45,000	*133,148	*152,958
United States	320,518	116,516	204,002	4,500
THE CENTRAL POWERS				
Austria-Hungary	4,820,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000
Bulgaria	256,250	87,495	155,026	13,729
Germany	6,251,000	1,935,000	4,216,058	990,000
Ottoman Empire	2,290,000	725,000	1,565,000	(X)

From official estimates provided by respective embassies or military attachés.
 * Unofficial. (X) Unavailable.